

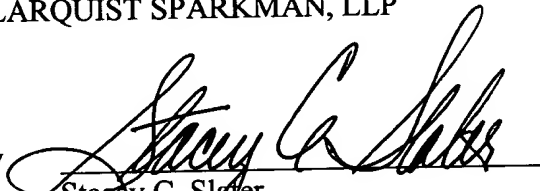
a controlled release rate mechanism without using a specific active ingredient or the specific polymeric material claimed in invention II." However, independent claim 35 of Examiner's Group II and independent claim 50 of Examiner's Group III do not specify the active ingredient or the polymeric material used to provide the formulation, i.e., these claims are generic with respect to such materials. Thus, the Examiner's stated reason for supporting the restriction between Groups II and III is improper in view of the fact that independent claim 35 of Examiner's Group II and independent claim 50 of Examiner's Group III do not specify particular ingredients. For this additional reason, applicant requests that the requirement for restriction be withdrawn. Alternatively, applicant requests that both Groups II and III be combined as a single group for prosecution.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if there are any further questions remaining concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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